

Hi my name is _____ and this is the 8th principle minute. With the adoption of the 8th Principle, our congregation committed to dismantle racism, beginning within our walls.

Last week I shared a little about the origin of Kwanzaa. I mentioned that Dr. Sanyika, a UU leader during the UU black empowerment period of the 60s, stated that the seven principles of Kwanzaa provide African Americans with a guide to combat white supremacy and institutional racism.

1. **Umoja (Unity):** maintaining unity as a family, community, and race of people.
2. **Kujichagulia (Self-Determination):** defining, naming, creating, and speaking for ourselves.
3. **Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility):** building and maintaining our community—solving problems together.
4. **Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics):** building and maintaining retail stores and other businesses and to profit from these ventures.
5. **Nia (Purpose):** work collectively to build communities that will restore the greatness of African people.
6. **Kuumba (Creativity):** to find new, innovative ways to leave communities of African descent in more beautiful and beneficial ways than the community inherited.
7. **Imani (Faith):** the belief in family, teachers, heritage, leaders, and others that will lead to the victory of Africans around the world.

The seven principles represent **seven values of African culture that help build and reinforce community among African-Americans**. We can study these 7 principles of Kwanzaa to learn how to dismantle institutional racism as we build a community of communities here at First U.

Together we will continue this journey toward spiritual wholeness, build a beloved community, educate ourselves and discuss what it means to develop a culture of being accountably anti-racist. We will continue to look at our own practices, identity, and stories with a new lens to dismantle the racism in ourselves and our institutions.

